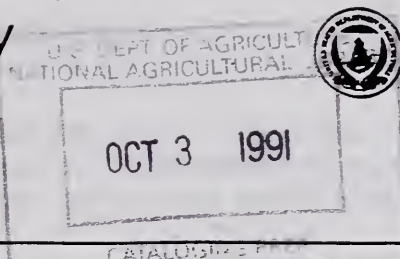


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1990 Water Quality Fact Sheet



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation
Service

Extension Service

Soil
Conservation
Service

Water is one of our Nation's most precious resources. Agricultural and public concern has raised preservation of water quality to both a U.S. Department of Agriculture and Presidential Initiative.

USDA's emphasis is on education and technical assistance, research, and data base development. Eleven USDA agencies are involved in the water quality Initiative, working with state and local governments, other federal agencies and the private sector.

Water quality projects sponsored by USDA are underway in 45 states to address agriculture-related water quality concerns.

Many of these projects were selected from areas identified by states in response to Section 319 of the Water Quality Act of 1987, which directed states to assess and prioritize their most severe water quality problem areas and to develop nonpoint source management programs to solve these problems. Present projects focus on four major areas: Hydrologic Units, Demonstration Projects, Special Projects, and Other Initiatives.

Hydrologic Unit Areas

Thirty-seven hydrologic unit areas—agricultural watersheds—were selected in 37 states for 1990, with 37 more anticipated in 1991. The goal of hydrologic unit areas is to assist farmers and ranchers in voluntarily applying conservation practices that will help achieve water quality goals.

In each area, cost-sharing will be provided to farmers to install conservation practices such as animal waste control facilities, sod waterways, water management systems and integrated crop management for water quality improvement. Cost-share funds may come from several sources, including Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) cost-share funds and state cost-share programs.

The hydrologic unit areas selected in 1990 will be under the joint leadership of two agencies, the Extension Service (ES) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). ES will provide information and education assistance, including specific recommendations on the use of nutrients and pesticides, and SCS will help farmers and ranchers develop conservation systems to reduce adverse water quality effects. ASCS will provide cost-share assistance, where appropriate.

Demonstration Projects for Water Quality

Demonstration projects were selected in eight states in 1990 to show new ways to minimize the effects of agricultural nonpoint sources of pollution, including nutrients and pesticides, on water quality, especially groundwater quality.

The goals are:

- to demonstrate cost-effective agricultural practices that can be used and shared by farmers and ranchers
- to accelerate the adoption of new water quality technology currently developed but not yet widely used.

Over the next 2 years, 16 more demonstration projects are planned. Each project will be conducted for a period of 3 to 5 years.

USDA's Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service will provide joint leadership for the on-farm demonstration projects. ASCS will provide cost-share assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers who install the demonstration practices.

Specific efforts include demonstrating:

- cost-effective methods to manage fertilizers and animal wastes to lessen the potential for surface and groundwater pollution
- crop and nutrient management systems that maintain farm profitability and reduce pesticide and nutrient loadings to both ground and surface waters in areas with shallow groundwater tables
- integrated, cost-effective use of nitrogen, irrigation, and pest management on irrigated cropland to reduce chemical inputs, production costs and groundwater contamination.

Water Quality Special Projects

Forty water quality special projects in 29 states have been selected at the national level for fiscal year 1990. Program funds are reserved at the Washington level by ASCS to fund water quality special projects developed by county ASC committees. Project emphasis is on improving ground and surface water quality that has been impaired through pollution from agricultural nonpoint sources. Pollution problems stemming from animal waste, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment are addressed under the projects. Various conservation measures authorized under the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) that aid in the improvement of water quality are available to solve the problems identified in the project plans. The projects are administered by ASCS with educational and technical assistance provided by ES and SCS.

Flexibility is built into the ACP water quality special projects concept. Projects may be used to solve locally identified water quality problems to provide significant public benefits to nonagricultural interests as well as projects that are designed to support state 319 nonpoint source objectives.

Other Initiatives

As part of its 5-year plan, USDA will continue to support ongoing regional projects: the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Colorado River Salinity Control Program, the Puget Sound Estuary Program, Land and Water 201 Program (includes counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia) and the Great Lakes Program.

To facilitate these programs, ES and SCS are developing extensive programs of staff training to ensure that field staff are familiar with the latest technology and its use in helping farmers, ranchers, and landowners to enhance or protect water quality while maintaining profitable agricultural operations.

This fact sheet provides general information on water quality programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Water Quality Projects



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The U. S. Department of Agriculture has water quality projects underway in 43 states and Puerto Rico, including regional projects, demonstration projects, and on-farm assistance. They are:

State	Name of Project	Counties
Alabama	Sand Mountain/Lake Guntersville (1) Big Prairie Creek (2)	Marshall, De Kalb, Jackson Hale
Arizona	Casa Grande/Coolidge (1)	Pinal
Arkansas	Moore's Creek (1) Beaver Lake (2)	Washington Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington
California	Westside San Joaquin Valley (1) Sacramento Valley Demonstration Project (3) to demonstrate the economic environmental feasibility of pesticide management practices that reduce pesticide residue levels in irrigation return flow water.	Fresno, Merced, Kings Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Tehama, Placer, Yolo
Connecticut	Housatonic River (1)	Litchfield, Fairfield, New Haven, Hartford (plus Dutchess and Columbia counties in New York and Berkshire County in Massachusetts)
Delaware	Inland Bays 1) Nanticoke (2)	Sussex Kent, Sussex
Florida	Middle Suwannee River (1) Lake Manatee Watershed Demonstration Project (3) to demonstrate the use of profitable irrigation and crop management systems, based on computer decision models, for the reduction of nutrient and pesticide loadings to surface and ground water.	Lafayette, Suwannee Manatee
Georgia	Piedmont (2)	Baldwin, Greene, Taliaferro, Morgan, Putnam
Illinois	Illinois River Sands (1) Cedar Lake (2)	Mason Jackson
Indiana	Upper Tippecanoe (1) LaGrange County Lake Enhancement (2)	Kosciusko LaGrange

Iowa	Union Grove and Black Hawk (1) Corydon Lake (2)	Tama, Marshall Wayne
Kansas	Miola Lake (2)	Miami
Kentucky	Mammoth Cave Area (2)	Barren, Edmonson, Hart, Metcalfe, Warren
Louisiana	Bayou Queue de Tortue (1) Tangipahoa River (2)	Acadia, Vermilion, Lafayette Tangipahoa, St. Helena, Washington
Maine	Long/Cross Lakes (1) Kenduskeag Stream (2) 25 Mile River (2)	Aroostook Penobscot Waldo, Kennebec, Penobscot, Somerset
Maryland	Monocacy River Watershed Demonstration Project (3) Focus on economically feasible and environmentally effective methods for farmers to reduce the application of fertilizers and properly manage animal wastes, thus reducing the potential to pollute surface and ground water. Bohemia-Sassafras River (2) Chincoteague and Sinepuxent Bay Systems (2)	Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery Cecil Worcester
Massachusetts	Buzzards Bay (1) Lower Deerfield River (2)	Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable Franklin
Michigan	Sycamore Creek (1) Clam River (2)	Ingham Missaukee, Osceola, Clare, Wexford
Minnesota	St. Peter/Prairie du Chien (1) Anoka Sand Plain Demonstration Project (3) to demonstrate cost-effective nutrient and crop management systems that reduce loadings of nitrates and pesticides in a ground-water recharge area.	Olmsted Anoka, Benton, Chisago, Hennepin, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington, Wright
Mississippi	Tangipahoa River (1) Tenn-Tom (2)	Pike, Amite, Lincoln Itawamba
Montana	Godfrey Creek (1)	Gallatin
Nebraska	Elm Creek (1) Mid-Nebraska Water Quality Demonstration Project (3) to demonstrate on irrigated cropland the integrated use of cost-effective nitrogen, irrigation, and pest management to reduce chemical inputs, production costs, and ground-water contamination. Quad Counties (2) Southern Nuckolls (2)	Webster Adams, Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Kearney, Polk, Seward, York, Webster Buffalo, Hall, Merrick, Nance Nuckolls

New Hampshire	Great Bay (1)	Rockingham, Strafford
New Mexico	Dona Ana/Sierra (1)	Dona Ana, Sierra
New York	East Sidney Lake (1) Cattaraugus Creek (2)	Delaware Allegany, Erie, Cattaraugus, Wyoming, Chautauqua
	Multi-County Chesapeake Bay/ Susquehanna River (2)	Allegany, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Kerkimer, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga
North Carolina	Goshen Swamp (1)	Duplin
	Herrings Marsh Run Demonstration Project (3) to demonstrate crop and nutrient management systems that maintain farm profitability and reduce pesticide and nutrient loadings to both ground and surface waters in areas with shallow ground water tables.	northwestern Duplin County
North Dakota	Bowman/Haley (1) Renwich (2)	Bowman Pembina, Cavalier
Ohio	Indian Lake (1) Clark Lake (2) Upper Darby (2) Upper Vermillion (2)	Logan, Hardin Clark Madison, Champaign Ashland, Huron, Richland
Oklahoma	Battle Branch (1) Peachester (2)	Delaware Adair
Oregon	Ontario (1) Coquille River (2) Nestucca River (2)	Malheur Coos Tillamook
Pennsylvania	Potomac-Juniata (2)	Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Perry, Bradford
Puerto Rico	Lake Loiza (1)	Lake Loiza in the Rio Grande de Loiza watershed
Rhode Island	Pawcatuck (1) Narragansett Bay (2)	Washington Bristol, Kent, Newport, Washington
South Carolina	Camping Creek (1) Clarendon-Sumter (2) Greenwood-McCormick (2)	Lexington, Newberry Clarendon, Sumter Greenwood, McCormick
South Dakota	Richmond Lake (1)	Brown, Edmunds, McPherson
Tennessee	North Fork Creek and Fall Creek Lick and Limestone Creeks (2) Upper Duck River (2)	Bedford Greene, Washington Bedford, Coffee
Texas	Upper North Bosque (1)	Erath, Hamilton

	Seco Creek Demonstration Project (3) to demonstrate cost-effective vegetative management systems to increase water yield and reduce pesticide and nitrogen leaching in a ground-water recharge area.	Bandera, Medina, Uvalde
Utah	Little Bear River (1)	Cache
Vermont	Lower Missisquoi (1) Lower Lake Champlain (2)	Franklin, Lamoille Chittenden, Addison, Rutland
Virginia	Lower Nottaway and Blackwater Rivers (2) Rockingham County (2)	Southampton Rockingham
Washington	Kamm Creek (2) South Fork of the Palouse River (2)	Whatcom Whitman plus Latah in Idaho
West Virginia	Greenbrier River (1)	Greenbrier
Wisconsin	Plover/Whiting Wellhead Area (1)	Portage
	East River Watershed Demonstration Project (3) to demonstrate crop management systems that reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus, and pesticides required to produce competitive crops, thus enhancing farmers' net income and reducing the loading of nutrients and pesticides to surface and ground water.	Brown
	Lake Neshonoc-Little La Crosse River (2)	La Crosse, Monroe
Wyoming	Ocean Lake (1)	Fremont

(1) One of 37 hydrologic unit areas—agricultural watersheds—selected in 1990 with leadership assigned to USDA's Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

(2) One of 40 1-year water quality projects selected to solve problems caused by agricultural nonpoint source pollution of ground and surface water. These projects are under the leadership of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service with accelerated technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service.

(3) One of eight demonstration projects selected in 1990 to show new ways to minimize the effects of agricultural nutrients and pesticides on water quality, especially ground water quality. These projects are under the leadership of USDA's Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

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All USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, color, natural origin, religion, sex, marital status, or handicap.